

We have become a Nation inundated with propaganda that passes for news with the likes of Rush Limbaugh and the Fox TV stations and now we have Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election. The fact they don't even have the integrity to label their presentation as opinion, but are passing it off as news is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. There are so few competing stations now days that they are not even concerned about being called out as propagandist.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.